the emotions that those things arouse. This explains that boundless uncertainty which upsets my acts when they must be based on a judgment,

I always see, almost simultaneously, the two sides of each idea, and the emotion is always polarized in me. But even though I understand the two poles, I also am keenly aware, between them, of the point beyond which the understanding of a mind which takes the strictly personal view, which can see only one side of truth, which chooses once and for all one or the other of the two poles, cannot extend.

And when I am talking with a friend, I generally am concerned only with telling him what he thinks, and I myself share his opinion, paying attention only to establishing and measuring the relations between him and things. (This is particularly true with Walckenaer.)

But when I am with two friends and they disagree, I remain on edge between them, not knowing what to say, not daring to take sides with one or the other, accepting every affirmation and rejecting every negation.

After all, these questions of psychology are absurd and petty.

15 May

Disorders of the flesh and perturbations of the soul can go on indefinitely, but they are interesting only so long as you consider these things important.

A thing has value only through the importance we give to it. We make the best of a thing when we detach all our thoughts from it one by one until it finally takes place without stirring up any reverberations in our soul.

Two really extraordinary faculties of the poet: the permission to yield to things, when he wants, without losing himself;

and the capability of being consciously naive. These two faculties can moreover be reduced to the single gift of dissociation.

The two or three times in your life when you have drunk really refreshing drinks.

Nancy. November

(Military service.) I realize now that I have suffered recently because the various faculties of my soul were not employed in relation to their hierarchy. The noblest ones were idle. And I know that if I had been alone I should have made sublime emotions of these purely physical emotions. But I recognized that the others felt sympathy only for the lower emotions, and I wanted their sympathy.